

IN THE CLAIMS

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 12. (Amended herewith) A method of time-tracking a plurality of fingers in a Rake receiver comprising:

restricting each finger from tracking outside motion limits for that finger; and

determining the motion limits for a finger in accordance with the position of one or more adjacent fingers.

[The method of claim 9, wherein] whereby no advance limit is set for a finger with no adjacent finger ahead in time within a pre-determined offset limit.

13. (Amended herewith) A method of time-tracking a plurality of fingers in a Rake receiver comprising:

restricting each finger from tracking outside motion limits for that finger; and

determining the motion limits for a finger in accordance with the position of one or more adjacent fingers.

[The method of claim 9, wherein] whereby no retard limit is set for a finger with no adjacent finger behind in time within a pre-determined offset limit.

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15. (Amended herewith) A method of time-tracking a plurality of fingers in a Rake receiver comprising:

restricting each finger from tracking outside motion limits for that finger.

[The method of claim 6,] wherein the motion limits are regenerated periodically.

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17. (Amended herewith) A method of time-tracking a plurality of fingers in a Rake receiver comprising:

restricting each finger from tracking outside motion limits for that finger.

[The method of claim 6,] wherein the motion limits are regenerated subsequent to the issuance of a time-tracking command.

18. (Amended herewith) A method of time-tracking a plurality of fingers in a Rake receiver comprising:

restricting each finger from tracking outside motion limits for that finger.

[The method of claim 6,] wherein the motion limits for a finger are regenerated when a time-tracking command is issued to the finger.

19. (Amended herewith) A method of time-tracking a plurality of fingers in a Rake receiver comprising:

restricting each finger from tracking outside motion limits for that finger.

[The method of claim 6,] wherein the motion limits for a first finger adjacent to a second finger are regenerated when a time-tracking command is issued to the second finger.

20. (Original) A method of time-tracking a plurality of fingers, each finger having an advance limit and a retard limit, comprising:

advancing the retard limit of a first finger adjacent to and ahead of a second finger and the advance limit of a third finger adjacent to and behind the second finger when an advance

command is delivered to the second finger; and

retarding the retard limit of the first finger and the advance limit of the third finger when a retard command is delivered to the second finger.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising suppressing the advance and retard commands for the second finger when the commands would move the offset of the second finger outside the advance or retard limit of the second finger.

22. (Original) A method of time-tracking a plurality of fingers, each finger having an advance limit, a retard limit, and a center position located approximately equidistant from the finger's advance and retard limits, comprising:

advancing the advance and retard limits of a first finger when the first finger is advanced past the center position and the advance limit of the first finger plus a pre-determined guardband is less than the retard limit of a second finger ahead of and adjacent to the first finger; and

retarding the advance and retard limits of the first finger when the first finger is retarded past the center position and the retard limit of the first finger minus a pre-determined guardband is greater than the advance limit of a third finger behind and adjacent to the first finger.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, further comprising advancing the advance and retard limits of the third finger, subsequent to an advance of the advance and retard limits of the first finger, when the third finger is advanced past its center position.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22, further comprising retarding the advance and retard limits of the second finger, subsequent to a retard of the advance and retard limits of the first finger, when the second finger is retarded past its center position.

25. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the advance and retard limits of the first finger are advanced subsequent to an advance command to the first finger.

26. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the advance and retard limits of the first finger are retarded subsequent to a retard command to the first finger.

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28. (Original) Processor readable media operable to perform the following steps:

advancing the retard limit of a first finger adjacent to and ahead of a second finger and the

advance limit of a third finger adjacent to and behind the second finger when an advance command is delivered to the second finger; and

advancing the retard limit of the first finger and the advance limit of the third finger when an advance command is delivered to the second finger.

29. (Original) Processor readable media operable to perform the following steps:

advancing the advance and retard limits of a first finger when the first finger is advanced past its center position and the advance limit of the first finger plus a pre-determined guardband is less than the retard limit of a second finger ahead of and adjacent to the first finger; and

retarding the advance and retard limits of a first finger when the first finger is retarded past its center position and the retard limit of the first finger minus a pre-determined guardband is greater than the advance limit of a third finger behind and adjacent to the first finger.

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31. (Original) A Rake receiver comprising:

means for advancing the retard limit of a first finger adjacent to and ahead of a second finger and the advance limit of a third finger adjacent to and behind the second finger when an advance command is delivered to the second finger; and

means for advancing the retard limit of the first finger and the advance limit of the third finger when an advance command is delivered to the second finger.

32. (Original) A Rake receiver comprising:

means for advancing the advance and retard limits of a first finger when the first finger is advanced past its center position and the advance limit of the first finger plus a pre-determined guardband is less than the retard limit of a second finger ahead of and adjacent to the first finger; and

means for retarding the advance and retard limits of a first finger when the first finger is retarded past its center position and the retard limit of the first finger minus a pre-determined guardband is greater than the advance limit of a third finger behind and adjacent to the first finger.